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MILITARY

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INTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Khrushchev's Peregrinations: Flanked by his two top party and government assistants for the RSFSR, the Central Committee's RSFSR Bureau deputy chairman G.I. VORONOV and the RSFSR "premier" D.S. POLYANSKIY, Khrushchev has had another busy week in the provinces. After concluding his participation in the Urals area agricultural conference in Sverdlovsk with a major speech March 2 (published March 7), he stayed on a day longer to present an Order of Lenin to Sverdlovsk Oblast for its agricultural and industrial achievements (received in an appropriate, festive setting by CC Presidium Candidate Member and Oblast First Secretary A.P. KIRILENKO). The next day found him and his entourage in Kurgan where he made another award presentation speech and delivered another Order of Lenin, this time to Kurgan Oblast. From Kurgan he travelled to Novosibirsk, arriving there March 5. This allowed him time for visiting local establishments and perhaps for some rest prior to participating in a Siberian area agricultural conference attended by about two thousand persons March 7-8. His March 8 speech has not yet been published but, if previous practice is followed, it will appear in the ntral press after his arrival at still another agricultural conference site, possibly Akmolinsk ("capital" of the Kazakh virgin lands area which figured in the travel itinerary he outlined in h's January 17 speech at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum in Moscow).

Moscow resident members and candidate members of the CC presidium who remained behind in Moscow seem to have been normally active; They made two group appearances (the Women's Day meeting here March 8 and the All-Union Conference of Young Builders March 9) from which only the elderly O.V. KUUSINEN and N.M. SHVERN K were absent. Ex-Presidium Member and ex-USSR "president" K. Ye. VOROSHILOV, now only a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was present and photographed in their midst on both occasions. March 9, his successor as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium L.I. BREZHNEV bestowed on him the Order of Lenin which had been awarded earlier.

2. KAL'CHENKO Given Another Chance: N.T. Kal'chenko, removed March 1 from the chairmanship of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers for his share of the responsibility for poor Ukrainian agricultural performance in 1960 (See Weeka No. 9 of March 3), has been given a chance to redeem himself in a less important but still prominent post involving direct responsibility for agricultural procurement, that of Minister of the new Ukrainian Ministry of Procurement formed March 3. His simultaneous designation as a deputy chairman of the council of ministers he so recently headed is more likely a sign of the importance being attached to the new ministry (Ukrainian counterpart of the new USSR State Procurement Committee headed by CPSU Central Committee Presidium Member and USSR deputy premier N.G. IGNATOV) than one of confidence in Kal'chenko who is not likely to forget the acid criticism directed at him personally by Khrushchev in the latter's January 17 plenum speech. An RSFSR Ministry of Procurement also has been formed in the past week (March 6) and is to be under the direction of Yu. T. Yurkin who has been RSFSR Minister of Grain Products. Yurkin's appointment suggests that the Procurement Ministry will absorb the Grain Products Ministry although the latter has not been abolished formally as yet.

3. Multiplication of Ministries: The tendency in the past year or more to form additional ministries or state committees having ministerial status runs counter to Khrushchev's expressed policy of cutting down on the bureaucratic apparatus.

As one result of this trend, the appearance of the central and regional government apparatus is becoming increasingly similar to that which existed before the major reorganization in mid-1957. Organizational changes resulting from the current institutional reorganization of agricultural management, controls, procurement and supply seem to be accelerating this tendency for more rather than fewer government institutions. The new ministries of procurement being formed at the RSFSR and union republic level (see above) may not be net additions to the ministerial apparatus if they absorb existing grain products ministeries or state committees. However, it now seems that separate ministries, state committees or main administrations for state farms will be established in a number of the union republics, and union republic equivalents of the new USSR farm supply organization SOYUZSEL'KHOZTEKNIKA (having the status of a state committee of the USSR Council of Ministers) are appearing as well.

The RSFSR Ministry of State Farms, (like other ministries of state farms merged with the corresponding ministries of agriculture in 1957) has been reestablished to judge from the March 3 announcement of the naming of V.V. MEMNENOV (a deputy minister of the pre-1957 reorganization RSFSR Ministry of State Farms) to be its minister. In the Ukraine, the formation of a Main Administration of State Farms (attached to the Ukrainian Council of Ministers), announced March 5, is to be headed by the pre-1957 Ukrainian Minister of State Farms A.A. GRYZA. A reestablished Kazakh Ministry of State Farms has been in existance since January 1960. Regional state and collective farm supply organizations have been formed under the local councils of ministers in the RSFSR (ROSSEL'KHOZTEKNIKA), Ukraine (UKRSEL'KHOZTEKNIKA), Kazakhstan (KAZSEL'KHOZTEKNIKA) and, separately, for Kazakhstan's special virgin lands area Tselinnyy Kray (TSELINSEL'KHOZTEKNIKA).

4. Central Party Apparatus: M.D. YAKOVLIEV, most recently Soviet Ambassador to the Congo and a former RSFSR Minister for Foreign Affairs (and RSFSR deputy premier), seems to have exchanged his diplomatic responsibilities for one having a bearing on RSFSR matters either in the central party apparatus or the RSFSR "government". This seems fairly certain from his having been identified in the March 4 issue of Sovetskaya Rossiya as a member of the CPSU Central Committee's Bureau for the RSFSR, top party organ for the RSFSR (which has no separate party or central committee of its own). RSFSR Agriculture Minister V.P. SOLNIKOV's party counterpart and probably senior in influence and responsibility, the Chief of the Central Committee's Section of Agriculture for the RSFSR, also was identified this week. I.S. PANKIN, who has been known since February 11 as chief of an unspecified Central Committee Section, was described as head of the CC's RSFSR Agriculture Section in a report of his attendance at a Stavropol Kray Party Committee plenum (Sovetskaya Rossiya of March 2).

5. Additional Union Republic Ministerial Appointments: A.M. BARANOVSKIY has been named Ukrainian Minister of Finance, replacing N.T. SHCHETININ who supposedly was released for reasons of health (Pravda Ukrainy of March 2). Kazakh Minister of Culture A. KANAPIN has been released without mention of cause or future responsibilities, and has been replaced by L.G. GALIMZHANOVA, a woman whose appointment was announced by possible coincidence on Soviet Women's Day (Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of March 8). Also in Kazakhstan and perhaps of more significance in view of the many recent shifts of agricultural personnel elsewhere, the President of the Kazakh Academy of Agricultural Sciences Kh. ARYSTANBEKOV has been named Minister of Agriculture, releasing Minister M.G. ROGINETS who has been given an equally or more important post as first deputy chairman of the Kazakh State Planning Commission (Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of March 3).

EXTERNAL-POLITICAL

6. US-Soviet Relations: Soviet propaganda continued to reflect a "wait-and-see" approach toward the new Administration. In several different contexts — the Congo, disarmament, and Laos — Soviet press comment employed the symbol of "the big stick" in a strongly negative way, and in some places referred to the role of the US as the world "gendarme." Soviet propaganda, which in the past has been cautious in its treatment of Ambassador Stevenson, used a new degree of asperity in discussing his defense of Hammarskjold and the role of the UN in colonial issues (see item 2). As has been the practice since President Kennedy took office, his name has been kept before the public regularly by reporting selected portions of his weekly press conferences. There continues to be an absence of unfavorable personal comment on the President.

The initial Soviet press reaction to the Peace Corps was characterized by the caption "Corps of Spies" and was based on a New York Herald Tribune article by Margaret Higging on the Nigerian reaction to the Corps.

The press also used harsh language in connection with the Melekh espionage case in Chicago. The press said that the new Administration has in this instance followed the Eisenhower policy despite the fact that the American people passionately desire an improvement in US-Soviet relations.

Izvestiya and its weekend supplement Nedelya have carried feature articles complaining that Soviet journalists in the US and particularly those assigned to the UN are subjected to discriminatory treatment and darkly hinted that American correspondents in Moscow may face retaliatory actions.

7. UNGA and Disarmament: Soviet press reports before the opening of the second half of the 15th General Assembly made it clear that the USSR intended to press its disarmament proposals strongly there. There was strong press criticism of reported US views that disarmament be dropped from the agenda with a view to resumption of substantive negotiation later in the year. Such a delay, it was argued, was inadmissible and could have fatal consequences. The present US administration had at its disposal specialists thoroughly familiar with the course of past negotiations. The contention that the US had blocked constructive neutral resolutions on disarmament and a nuclear test ban during the first half of the UNGA seemed to foreshadow a Soviet campaign to exert pressure on the US on the disarmament issue through the neutral countries.

The failure to agree on disarmament as an agenda item entailed considerable press discussion of the agenda as a whole. The US was described as insistent on retention of "cold war" items like Hungary and Tibet, and thus as failing to respond positively to Soviet efforts, in offering to drop US overflights [illegible] item, to achieve a constructive session. The acrimonious flavor of such comment also carried over to press discussion of Ambassador Stevenson and particularly of his March 2 Waldorf speech which was the subject of an Izvestiya (March 9) "Observer" article. "Observer" objected to Stevenson's warning against the replacement of one form of colonialism by another, and in turn warned Stevenson to beware lest he "slide on to the path of supporting the policy 'from positions of strength,'" which he had

himself criticized during the Eisenhower administration.

All in all, the week's developments suggested that the resumed UNGA session would not be very harmonious.

8. Congo: The main focus of political interest during the week — the Tananarive conference — was treated circumspectly in the Soviet press until the announcement of Gizenga's refusal to attend. The cautious approach, attributable perhaps to uncertainty as to Gizenga's intention, gave way to outright condemnation of the conference as a colonialist trick aimed at replacing parliamentary authority, with Gizenga's statement condemning the meeting being used in support.

The press carried summaries of Nkrumah's speech at the resumed UNGA but did not comment on his proposals. Possibly his suggestion about an African-Asian Command will provide the Soviets with a useful means of diverting attention from the marked lack of response to Khrushchev's proposals in his Feb. 22 letter to Nehru. In this connection, the Soviet public has not yet been informed of the Indian offer of additional troops for the UN Command.

Coverage of events in Congo itself highlighted the attack on UN forces in Matadi and Banana. Characteristically, Soviet comment simultaneously accused the UN Command of connivance in turning over military stores at both places to Mobutu, and Mobutu of blatant disregard for UN orders. The Sudanese withdrawal of troops after the Banana incident was cited as further evidence of African states' loss of confidence in the UN operation. The press reported without comment the movement of a US Navy unit toward Congo waters and its subsequent resumption of course toward South Africa.

9. Laos: The military newspaper Red Star carried an article which reverted to the theme that certain "overseas circles" (US not explicitly identified) do not want a peaceful settlement in Laos, but on the contrary wish to exploit this issue for prosecuting cold war, or even starting general war. The use of this theme, not employed in the Soviet press since the Kennedy Administration took office, may reflect concern that possible initiatives on Laos from the US side will operate against Soviet efforts to convene an international conference on Laos.

Other themes in Soviet press coverage of Laos and related developments were: the illegality of the Boum Oum Government and its lack of right to represent Laos in international bodies such as the ECAFE meeting in New Delhi; the inability of Phoumi's forces to capture the Plaine des Jarres, implying that this campaign, despite heavy investment of men and money, can now be considered a failure; criticism of the ICC in South Vietnam for "violating 1954 Geneva Agreement" in agreeing to investigate subversive activities in South Vietnam, suggesting that if the ICC is reactivated in Laos its terms of reference should not permit it to conduct similar activity there; the inherent danger in the presence of Kuomintang irregulars in Laos.

10. Berlin/Germany: The Soviet memorandum delivered by Ambassador Smirnov to Chancellor Adenauer on Feb. 17 was published in the Soviet press on March 4. A number of commentaries this week have stressed the need for Bonn to agree to bilateral negotiations with the USSR in order to ensure that their interests in West Berlin will be protected in a final solution.

There also have been published a number of reports from West Germany indicating that both Adenauer and Brandt have branded the Soviet proposals in the memo as "unacceptable". Simultaneously there has been an increase in published anti-German material including, particularly, reports on opposition to the acquisition of foreign bases by the Bundeswehr in Britian, France, Italy, and Denmark.

11. Iceland: Reported Icelandic approval of the agreement with the UK resolving their long-standing dispute over fishing rights and the 12 mile limit was criticized by Izvestiya as making significant concessions to British commercial interests with no comparable advantages to Iceland. The article relied largely on alleged Icelandic opposition comments, but added that the British policy in Iceland has now been clearly revealed as not only designed to turning Iceland into a NATO base, but also to exploit its natural resources.

This article is the second attack on Iceland's government within a month. Earlier, developments involving the establishment of a US submarine base at Hvalfordor were the subject of sharp cirticism.

12. Baltic Show Trial: The full political motivation of the trial in Tallin, which began March 6, of three Estonian members of the German World War II security service, was not immediately clear. The fact that foreign press correspondents were invited to attend, and the continuing press coverage of the event, is evidence of the importance attached to the proceedings. There were obvious anti-German implications, but these were not strongly developed in the press. British refusal to extradite one of the accused was also the subject of criticism, but this hardly seemed likely to be profitable as a major propaganda theme. The trial probably was intended to discredit the Estonian emigration and in this connection may also have had some internal significance in Estonia and the Baltics generally.

13. Cuba: Charges that the US is planning aggression and conducting widespread subversive activities against Cuba (charges which had virtually disappeared until last week) appeared regularly again this week. The conference for Defense of National Sovereignty, Economic Independence, and Peace being held in Mexico supplied the major vehicle for the material. Accounts of the proceedings with emphasis on anti-American charges were carried in most papers on a daily basis including frequent references to slogans such as "Death to Yankee Imperialism".

Considerable attention was also devoted to alleged statements by Brazilian President Quadros in which he supported the Castro regime; and Mr. Beale's meeting with Quadros was ridiculed as achieving only agreement to disagree on Cuba.

14. Visits: A Chicom delegation arrived in Moscow March 2 for resumption, after recent preliminary discussions in Peiping, of Soviet-Chicom 1961 trade negotiations. The head of the delegation was said to intend joining the [redacted] group later.

Mikoyan met March 9 with Harold Wilson, former President of the Bo of Trade in British Labor governments.

Mikoyan also met March 7 with the Ceylonese Minister of Trade, T.B. ILLANGARATNE.

Madeira KEITA, Mali Minister of Interior, was reported March 8 to have arrived on a friendship and good-will visit.

A Libyan parliamentary delegation headed by Senator Ahmed RAFIK MAHDAWI arrived in Moscow March 7.

MILITARY

Negative

For the Ambassador:

Robert I. Owen
First Secretary of Embassy

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